

Los Angeles, Major Dairy County, Low in Animal-Carried Diseases

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County Health Officer

There are more than 100 diseases transmitted from animals to man and one of them, namely, brucellosis, has been called the nation's ranking animal-to-man disease problem. The human infection most often comes from cattle, hogs or goats.

One of the common ways an individual contracts the malady is by consuming raw milk; or butter, buttermilk, cheese, ice-cream, and other dairy products that are made from raw milk. The only exception is processed cheese made from raw milk which is rendered safe by the heat treatment it gets in the course of manufacture. The germs may also pass

through broken skin, and the disease is definitely considered an occupational hazard for veterinarians, farmers, slaughterhouse workers, and butchers. Such persons can become infected when handling an infected live animal or the carcass of one that has had the disease.

ALTHOUGH Los Angeles County is one of the major dairy areas in country, the disease occurs less frequently here than in many other places. Only three cases of the infection have been reported in the County so far this year as against one for the same period during 1958.

The reason for the low incidence locally is that about

99.4 per cent of the milk produced here is pasteurized, which is a higher percentage than that in many parts of the country. This control measure, and the State law that requires calves, gives Los Angeles County residents a greater degree of protection against the disease than is often encountered elsewhere in the nation.

THE NUMBER of cases annually reported in the United States is just about 4000, but public health officials estimate that the actual number is well over 10,000. No doubt even Los Angeles County has its share of these unknown cases.

The incomplete reporting of the disease is due to the difficulty in its recognition. Be-

cause the illness has such a wide variety of symptoms, it is sometimes confused with other diseases including tuberculosis, typhoid fever, and influenza. Many mild or acute cases are even passed off as a "feverish cold."

As likely as not, however, the illness may turn into chronic condition that occurs and re-occurs in fitful fashion over a number of months or years while the individual, definitely ill during the transitory attacks is sometimes unjustly called a hypochondriac.

THE SIGNS of the sickness are those of general infection, sweating, chills or chilliness, generalized aching, and a fever that, along with the other sym-

ptoms, come and goes.

Indeed, this up and down was why a British army doctor called it "undulant fever" back in 1895, a name that is still used despite the more recent and preferred term "brucellosis."

Prior to the last few years there was no successful treatment for brucellosis, but today therapy with certain of the antibiotic drugs proves effective in some cases, but today therapy with certain of the antibiotic drugs proves effective in some cases. Relapses are common, but the fatality rate is less than two per cent.

CONTROL of the disease depends almost entirely on the eradication of the disease in animals. Each sick animal can infect others including sheep, horses and domestic pets, and all such animals can spread the

disease to man. It is rarely spread from person to person.

Cases of brucellosis in Los Angeles County are few, it is true, but people who travel around in the United States,

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or go to other countries, should remember that the disease is more common in other areas than it is here. If such travel-

Coleman Engineering

The director of Coleman Engineering Co., Inc., declared a five per cent stock dividend on the common stock payable Aug. 15 to common stock of record August 1. Also declared was the regular quarterly dividend of 18 3/4 cents per share on the six per cent preferred payable June 15 to stock of record June 1.

In order to make additional funds available to process new contracts which will necessitate a 150 per cent increase in the company's manufacturing area, it was decided to pay a stock dividend in lieu of a

Notes Stock Dividend

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Coleman said these new contracts will increase the backlog of unfilled orders to over \$4,000,000 as compared with about \$2,000,000 at the same time last year. "This marks Coleman Engineering Company's entry into large scale manufacturing, gives a more integrated operation, improves profit margin potential and will provide a better balance between engineering development work and manufacturing," he commented.

lers avoid unpasteurized dairy products, the chances are very good that they will also avoid an animal disease that has caused man a lot of trouble for a long, long time.

A pamphlet giving additional information on brucellosis will be mailed to anyone sending a card of request to the Division of Public Health Education, Los Angeles County Health Department, 241 N. Figueroa St., Los Angeles 12.

TO ATTEND MEET

Six representatives of Torrance Seventh-day Adventist church will join with more than 250 Southern California Adventists at a church "Consecration" to be held at Cedar Falls Camp in the San Bernardino Mountains, tomorrow through Sunday.



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